

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON JANUARY 25 EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN

SECSTATE FOR S/PRS, EUR; USIA FOR IEU

EMBASSY SPOKESMAN PLANS RESPOND TO QUESTIONS GENERATED BY  
JANUARY 25 EVANS & NOVAK COLUMN AS FOLLOWS:

Q. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN WHICH  
MAINTAINS THAT AMBASSADOR GARDNER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
ADMINISTRATION'S NEW, HARDER LINE ON EUROCOMMUNISM?

A. THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE JANUARY 12 STATEMENT WAS REACHED  
BY TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. THERE WAS COMPLETE AGREEMENT  
ON THE STATEMENT. (AS APPROPRIATE: THE POLICY OF THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES HAS  
NOT CHANGED. THAT POLICY WAS STATED MANY TIMES OVER DURING  
THE PAST YEAR: BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON APRIL 6, BY  
PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF IN AN INTERVIEW WITH EUROPEAN  
JOURNALISTS ON APRIL 25, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH EUROPEAN TELEVISION  
COMMENTATORS ON MAY 2, AND IN AN INTERVIEW WITH READER'S  
DIGEST ON OCTOBER 20, BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE IN AN  
INTERVIEW WITH IL TEMPO ON JUNE 18, BY NATIONAL SECURITY  
ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI IN A WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW ON OCTOBER 9  
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AND BY AMBASSADOR GARDNER IN A CORRIERE DELLA SERA INTERVIEW  
ON NOVEMBER 15 AND AN INTERVIEW WITH EPOCA ON JANUARY 11, 1978.)

Q. DOES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION CONSTITUTE  
A REVERSION TO THE "KISSINGER LINE"?

A. UNITED STATES POLICY ON THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION

OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT SINCE THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION. I THINK THAT FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE THE FIRST TO AGREE.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT AMBASSADOR GARDNER BELIEVES, AS THE EVANS & NOVAK COLUMN MAINTAINS, THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IS "PERVASIVE" AT THE TOP LEVELS OF THE PCI, AND THAT THAT THREAT IS WHY THE U.S. OPPOSES THEIR ENTRY INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT?

A. PRESIDENT CARTER ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION IN A MAY 2 INTERVIEW WITH EUROPEAN TV COMMENTATORS. HE SAID: "WE STRONGLY FAVOR THE ELECTION OF LEADERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND WHO ARE FREE FROM COMMUNIST PHILOSOPHY, WHICH QUITE OFTEN HAS BEEN DOMINATED FROM THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER NATIONS."  
I WOULD ADD THAT OUR VIEW ON THE NATURE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR IN OUR JANUARY 12 STATEMENT. "THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY SHARE PROFOUND DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND INTERESTS, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS SHARE THOSE VALUES AND INTERESTS."

Q. DOES THE AMBASSADOR REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EAST GERMANY ARE THE "MAJOR SOURCES" OF ITALIAN TERRORISM?

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A. ANYTHING WE MIGHT LEARN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SOURCES OF THE TERRORISM WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT WE HAVE NO SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE IN THIS AREA.

Q. BUT DID AMBASSADOR GARDNER SAY THEY WERE THE SOURCES OF THE TERRORISM, OR ARE EVANS AND NOVAK JUST MAKING IT UP?

A. AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS NEVER SUGGESTED THAT WE HAD ANY SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE IN THIS AREA.

Q. WAS THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP HOME AND THE ENSUING U.S. STATEMENT MEANT AS A WARNING TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RESISTANCE TO PCI PRESSURES TO TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT?

A. THE STATEMENT WAS NOT MEANT AS A WARNING TO ANYONE. IT WAS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR VIEWS.

Q. IS THE EMBASSY OR AMBASSADOR GARDNER INTERESTED IN PROVOKING A "SHAKE-UP" IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DC?

A. NO. AS THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

HAVE PUBLICLY STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS: "OUR WESTERN  
EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES AND, RIGHTLY AND  
PROPERLY, THE DECISION ON HOW THEY ARE GOVERNED RESTS WITH  
THEIR CITIZENS ALONE." WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF  
TELLING ANYONE HOW TO ORGANIZE THEIR PARTIES OR THEIR  
GOVERNMENTS.GARDNER

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